

Commission on Disability Concerns Meeting Minutes April 15, 2008

**7:00 p.m.
Tempe Public Library,
3500 So. Rural Road, Tempe AZ**

(MEMBERS) Present:

Chair Janie Shelton, Robert Kizere, Cyndi Newburn, Jacque Olsen, Paul Bennewitz, Nora Nuñez, Tom Ringhofer, Frank Emery, Linda Bergevin, Matthew Jellison

(MEMBERS) Absent:

Co Vice-Chair Darrell Shandrow, Co Vice-Chair Mason Murphy, Aaron Edgell

Staff Present:

Karl Stephens, ADA Compliance Specialist

Guests present:

Ms. Jillian Bergevin. Commissioner Bergevin introduced her daughter who joined the meeting for the evening.

Meeting convened at 7:06 p.m., Chair Janie Shelton called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Commission minutes for 02/19/2008; approved / no changes. Commission minutes for 03/18/2008; approved w/ *addition* to minutes. Architectural Committee minutes for 04/01/2008; approved / no changes. Awards Committee minutes for 04/03/2008; approved / no changes.

Public Appearances:

None

1. Consideration and vote on proposal to change the Commission meeting day of the month to the first Thursday of each month, in order to utilize the much larger Library Board Room.

- No real discussion. Vote was held and was unanimously in favor of moving the day of the Commission meeting to the first Thursday of each month.

a. Consideration and vote on proposal to change the start time of each monthly meeting.

- Some discussion about the impact of the earlier start time on each Commission member, with many deciding that the potential earlier start time of 6:00 p.m. would work fine for them. Ultimately at least 2 members objected to the earlier start time but finally settled that 6:30 p.m. would work as an alternative. Vote was held and was unanimously in favor of changing the time meeting time to 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on a trial basis.

b. Cancellation of the May meeting and start new day and time on June 5, 2008

- Some discussion and a unanimous vote to cancel the May meeting and meet next on Thursday, June 5, 2008 from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. in the Library Board Room.

2. Tempe Rental Housing Concerns – Aaron Edgell

- No report. As a related matter, staff informed Commissioners about a recent contact by a local developer of a Tempe Townhome project that is being reviewed at this time. He is very interested in getting the input of the disability community in his project that will provide 7 of the 20+ townhomes with private elevators and accessible elements and spaces. Staff will keep the Commission updated on an upcoming meeting to discuss the project.

3. Report from the Committee on Architectural Accessibility – Tom Ringhofer

- Commissioner Ringhofer reaffirmed that the Committee is very interested in pursuing all available marketing options to notify the public that they are seeking community input regarding all architectural accessibility concerns and issues that exist within Tempe. Staff noted that these inserts are planned a minimum of 60 days in advance and that the Community Relations Department in City Hall handles these requests to get information to the public.

4. Dial-A-Ride Update – Darrell Shandrow

- No report but information shared by Staff that he is working with Federal and State resources to better inform public transit users about their rights to file complaints through the federal agencies that manage these transportation systems.

5. Vial of Life – Staff

- Staff updated the Commission that the documents needed to move this project forward have been sent to a contractor who will translate from English to Spanish the forms that make up the Vial-of-Life information. Once these are received the forms will be sent back to Tempe St. Luke's Hospital for printing and dissemination out to the public.

6. Mayor's Awards Committee Update – Paul Bennewitz

- A reminder to everyone that the Mayor's Disability Awards event is taking place on Wednesday, April 30 from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts Lakeside Room.

7. Report from the Child-Ability Committee – Linda Bergevin

- Commissioners received a copy of the one page form that represents the DRAFT survey document that will be sent to parents in the City of Tempe asking parents in simple terms what types of services their special needs child / children are receiving from the City of Tempe. Commissioner Bergevin gave some information about the evolution of this document, from a very extensive and in-depth survey to the current much simpler document. The current draft will ultimately be channeled through the City for approval by the City Council.

8. Parks and Recreation Committee Update -

- Staff reported that he and Commissioner Emery would be attending the 7:00 p.m. City of Tempe Parks Board meeting on April 16, 2008 to seek their assistance in helping to help sway the City of Tempe to adopt the ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Recreation Facilities, even though the guidelines have not yet been adopted by the Dept. of Justice (DOJ) and are therefore not enforceable at this time. This arduous adoption process by the DOJ could take several more years, though the Guidelines were finalized as of September 3, 2002. In 2007 the Commission had voted to seek this type of support from other Tempe Boards and Commissions.

9. Diversity/ADA Office Update

Staff Liaison Karl Stephens made the following announcements:

Topics for Future Meetings:

Possible bringing the Developer mentioned above to the next Commission meeting as a Guest speaker.

Meeting adjourned 8:32 p.m.

Prepared by: Karl Stephens

_____*Karl W. Stephens*_____
Staff Liaison, ADA Compliance Specialist